

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

8 NOV. 1961
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Ecuador

The situation as of early this morning appeared to be as follows:

- a) President Velasco was forced to resign by the military leaders a few hours after Vice President Arosmena was jailed.
- b) The military then named Supreme Court Chief Justice Camile Gallegos acting President.
- c) However, a private Ecuadorean radio network claims that Arosmena, released from arrest, has been proclaimed President by Congress, in accordance with the constitution. This network went off the air shortly after this announcement.
- d) The military leaders have resented Arosmena's pro-Cuban policy and his failure to crack down on leftist agitation and are expected to move further against him. More leftist disturbances are expected if the military deny him the presidency.

2. Laos

Souvanna told newsmen yesterday that:

- a) He would accept Hin Heup, the site of earlier talks, as a "three prince venue."
- b) Another deadlock "certainly would" mean full scale resumption of hostilities and would cause him to abandon the attempt to form a new government.
- c) Before formation of a government, agreement must be reached on a cease-fire, military integration, elections and the National Assembly.
- d) Phoumi was unacceptable as Defense Minister, but not as Vice Premier although this would "oblige me to some concession" to the Pathet Lao.

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4. USSR seeking to
step up military
aid to Afghans

[redacted] Mar-
shal Sokolovsky, after completing an
inspection tour several weeks ago, told
the Afghan chief of staff he would
recommend a new Soviet military mission
to reorganize and re-equip Afghan forces.

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5. Congo

a) Congo army units which withdrew
from northwest Katanga in disorder are
now regrouping.

b) UN officials in the Congo do not
intend to intervene. They view the
Leopoldville operations against Katanga
as legitimate "police action" aimed at
installing a responsive administration
in northern Katanga.

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c) Gizenga still refuses to return to
Leopoldville from Stanleyville. [redacted]

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NOTES

- A. [REDACTED] 50X1
- B. Current activities by Soviet space support vessels seem to bear out Khrushchev's intimations yesterday that there would be no sophisticated space launchings in the immediate future. Those in the Pacific are enroute to Vladivostok. Some remain in the Atlantic, but are still in port at Conakry, Guinea. [REDACTED] 50X1
[REDACTED] 50X1
- C. Ramfis Trujillo sent word to the US Consul General yesterday that he will not speak to him, to Mr. McGhee, "or any one about any business matters until after favorable OAS action."
- D. Our Embassy in London believes that the majority of the responsible public would now support a US or UK decision to resume testing in the atmosphere.
- E. British businessmen in Hong Kong have told US officials that the deal for the sale of 20 Viscount transports to China has been completed.

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